(b) whether the assessment is made on annual basis; and

(c) whether the population in the category of below poverty line is increasing or declining annually, along with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) At the behest of Ministry of Rural Development, the State Governments conduct the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census at the beginning of each Five Year Plan period. The Census covers all the families in the villages and the objective is to identify the families below the poverty line. Multiple Criteria, comprising of household occupation, housing condition, number of earners, asset position (Land operated/owned, number of livestock owned, consumer durable used etc.) were used for identification of the BPL families during the 9th Five Year Plan. Further Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation for identifying BPL families is using the State-specific poverty lines and seven non economic parameters-living conditions comprising parameters of (i) roof; (ii) floor; (iii) water; (iv) sanitation; (v) educational level; (vi) type of employment and (vii) status of children in a house. In addition, the Planning Commission estimates the state-specific poverty lines and distribution of persons by expenditure groups obtained from the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The populations in the category of below poverty line for rural and urban areas has declined from 37.30 percent and 32.40 percent respectively in 1993-94 to 27.10 percent and 23.60 percent respectively in 1999-2000.

Revision of OBC list

3990. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to expand OBC list;

(b) if so, the details of communities that are likely to be included in the list;

(c) whether Government also propose to increase the ceiling limit for determining the creamy layer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per provision under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act, 1993, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) examines requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the Central lists of OBCs and hears complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in such lists and tenders such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate.

The Government of India decides cases for inclusion/amendment in the Central Lists of Backward Classes based on the advices tendered by the NCBC and details thereof are notified from time to time. The Central Lists of OBCs undergoes changes whenever there are additions. This is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) The Government is in the process of setting up on a Review Committee to review the income criteria for determining Creamy Layer amongst OBCs. The income criteria will be revised on the basis of the recommendations of the Review Committee.

Commissions for development of various castes and classes

†3991. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons as well as the basis for constitution of various Commissions by Government for development of various castes and classes;

(b) the names of the Commissions constituted so far, by Government togetherwith the results achieved;

(c) whether any proposal for constituting a Commission for the development of socially, economically and educationally weaker classes is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, by when this Commission is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) This Ministry has set up three Commissions for development of castes and classes nemely (i) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per the provisions of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.